

From: devon.noll@att.net
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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Devon J. Noll, MPA
23106 N. Hwy. 395, #67
Colbert, WA 99005-9730

December 18, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

For several years as a domestic violence and end of life counselor, I often told people to go organic in their diets. I did this after researching the components and side effects of those components in our food. When I put clients with violent tendencies on organic diets, their

levels of rage diminished and the incidents of domestic abuse were reduced.

When I put families with terminally ill members on such diets, they were able to deal more effectively with the illness because they were not overstressed from the food they ate. In both instances the difference was notable, and helpful. The organic food helped to increase the strength of the person who was ill so that they could handle the medical procedures many times, and it helped the families to handle the strain of the situation with a more positive, less aggressive attitude.

I, myself, needed surgery several years ago and had had a problem with my heart and blood pressure in previous surgeries. I had been eating organic for about 6 years at that time, and when they did an electrocardiogram, they were stunned to find that this 51 year old, overweight woman who was exposed daily to second hand smoke, had arteries as clear as a 20 year old's. I was stunned too, and the only thing I can attribute it to is the food. So you can see there are considerable benefits that are being destroyed in our food system and leading to a variety of real-life health and sanity issues for people when companies like Monsanto tamper with our food and introduce genetic or chemical components that should never be introduced into the human body.

Monsanto has knowingly be supplying false information to the FDA and the USDA for years, and anyone who has suffered from ill health can prove it for you. The human body has not changed in over a million years or so, but these foods which have been modified or drugged have. They have no place in the human food system, and they have probably be either directly or indirectly responsible for millions of deaths do to disease and obesity in this nation. This company is moving to control our food supply, and must be stopped from destroying the food systems of not just this nation, but the world. They have done irreparable harm in places like India and Africa, while quietly destroying our food system here in the United States. **THEY MUST BE STOPPED AND STOPPED NOW!** Their lack of regard for the human cost is unconscionable and deadly dangerous.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Devon J. Noll, MPA
509-723-8405